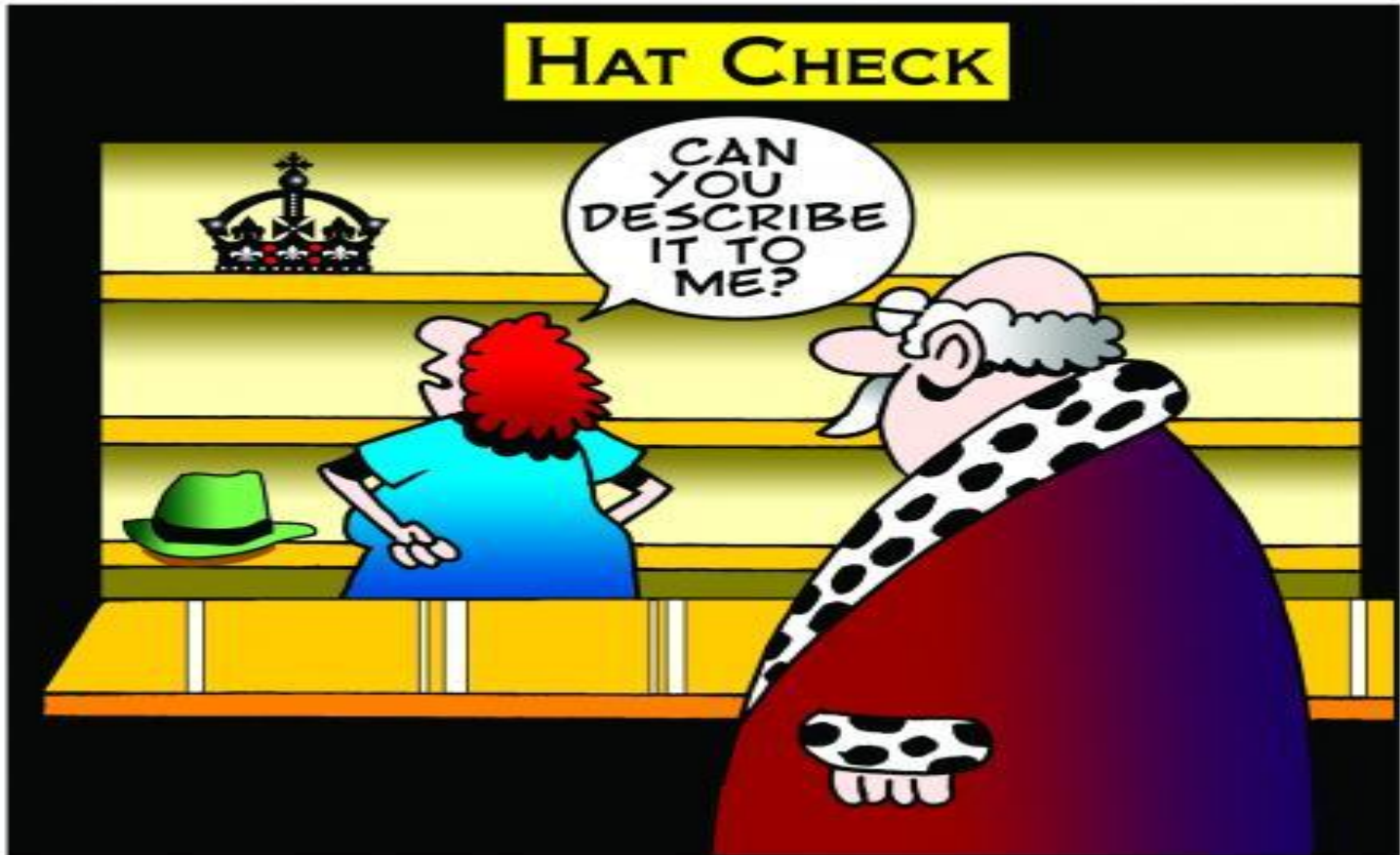
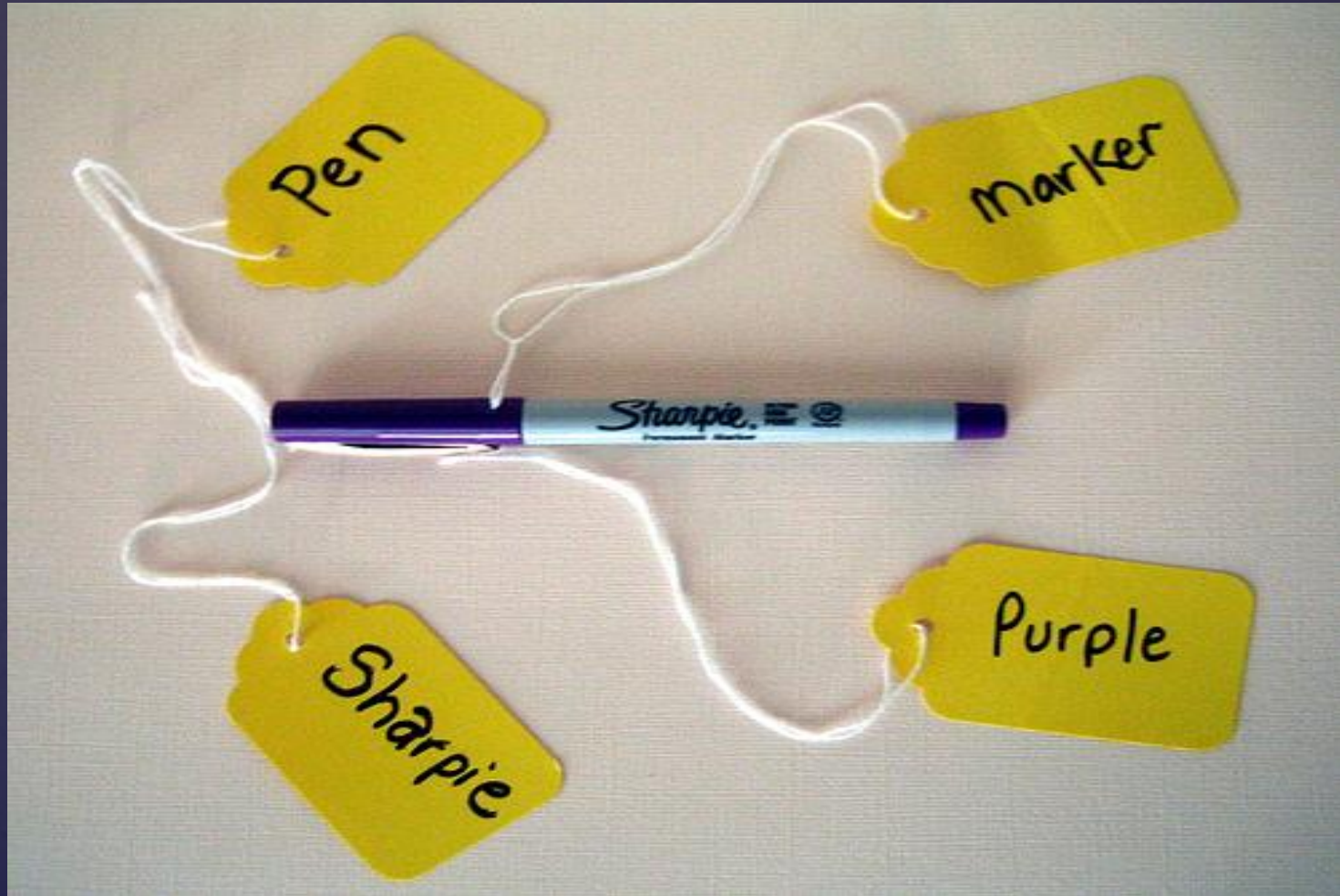


4.3

Descriptive Paragraphs



Describing



Describing Essays

Descriptive paragraphs include details that appeal to the five senses:



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Sight

Describing Essays



Taste

Describing Paragraphs



Touch

Describing Paragraphs



Smell

Descriptive Paragraphs



Hearing

Descriptive Paragraphs

In a descriptive paragraph, the writer must convey information that appeals to all the senses in order to give the best possible description to the reader

Descriptive Paragraphs

Step 1: Start with what the reader can see.

- Since sight is the most helpful sense, any good descriptive paragraph must first discuss what the writer wants the reader to visualize
- Help provide a visual picture in your reader's mind.

Descriptive Paragraphs

Step 2: Describe smells and tastes

- Include a sentence or two about how your topic smells and use a few poignant adjectives to relay the smell of it to the reader
- "It tastes good" is not going to provide a specific experience for your reader. However, "It tastes like Grandma's apple pie when it's fresh and still bubbling around the edges - crunchy, flavourful and sweet" helps describe the distinct flavour of your item. Smell and taste should provide the most helpful descriptions about your item, so try to make these most effective.

Descriptive Paragraphs

Step 3: Say how the moment or item feels

- What does it remind you of as you imagine yourself running your hand along its surface, or the tingling feeling you feel run down your back?
- Avoid using general statements like "it feels nice", which isn't descriptive at all. Opt for specific, definitive examples that relay the feeling of something to the reader.

Descriptive Paragraphs

Step 4: Mention the sounds of the moment

- What can you hear? Is there a deafening silence?
- If there is a buzzing sound, avoid simply saying "All of a sudden I heard a loud buzzing sound", rather "I jerked as all of the sudden I heard an undefinable buzzing sound, so loud I put my hands over my ears. I assumed it was the deafening fire alarm
- the reader would be able to relate with the "fire alarm" description, as most people have experienced the startling noise of a fire alarm.

Descriptive Paragraphs

Tips for success:

- Avoid using words like "nice", "good", "pretty", or "awesome", as these do not provide a visual picture in your reader's mind.
- Remember not to leave anything to the reader's imagination, especially when describing sound. Sentences like "The gentle breeze whispered past my ears, leaving a peaceful calm in the meadow" is a great sentence about what can be heard.

Descriptive Paragraphs

- Sounds can be difficult to describe, as well as tastes and smells. Use similes or metaphors that your reader can relate with to help them catch on to what *you're* experiencing, not to leave anything for them to determine.

EXAMPLE

The following paragraph, titled "My Tiny Diamond Ring," follows the basic pattern of *topic sentence*, *supporting sentences*, and *conclusion*:

On the third finger of my left hand is the pre-engagement ring given to me last year by my sister Doris. The 14-carat gold band, a bit tarnished by time and neglect, circles my finger and twists together at the top to encase a small white diamond. The four prongs that anchor the diamond are separated by pockets of dust. The diamond itself is tiny and dull, like a sliver of glass found on the kitchen floor after a dishwashing accident. Just below the diamond are small air holes, intended to let the diamond breathe, but now clogged with grime. The ring is neither very attractive nor valuable, but I treasure it as a gift from my older sister, a gift that I will pass along to my younger sister when I receive my own engagement ring this Christmas.